

MOAIDD Express

Volume II, Issue I

January 2003

Attention:

Due to budget constraints, this will be the last newsletter we will be able to mail. From now on the newsletter will posted on the MOAIDD Website, (see back page)

Inside this issue:

Mamie Benson Story Continued 2

Mandatory HIPAA Training Continued 3

News from Central MO 3

News from St. Louis 3

HIPAA Training Dates 4

News from North MO 4

News from South MO 4

MOAIDD Board MEMBERS 5

Board Member Highlight

Secretary: Mamie Benson

Spouse: Michael Benson Sr.

Children: TiaLisa Scurlock, Michael Jr. & Lisa Benson, and Mark & Lorri Benson

Grandchildren: Mandi, Tyler, Skyler, Jamie, Jessica, Zachary, Samantha, Dakota, Sierra, Caitlen, and Michael III

Job - Parent Policy Partner, Poplar Bluff Regional Center

Interests – MOAIDD volunteer and team leader, Secretary to State Board of MOAIDD, Region Eight Council member, Co-Advisor People First of Kennett, Utilization Review Committee member, Management team member, A-Team support group, Graduate of Partners in Policymaking, children's church and nursery worker, Mentor for MOCAN, Mentor for SOS.

I currently hold the position of Parent Policy Partner for the State of Missouri, DMH/MRDD, Poplar Bluff Regional Center, working with people of all ages with disabilities. I consider this an opportunity not a job. I enjoy helping people and this is a great way to help others who need the help.

Continued on Page 2

HIPAA Training Required for ALL MOAIDD Volunteers

HIPAA—The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
The following is from Dept. Operating Regulation 8.090:
All employees of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, as well as volunteers, students and contract employees in a DMH facility on a regular course of business, shall attend training on the privacy and security provisions of HIPAA.

HIPPA protects people's healthcare information, or in MOAIDD's case, the person-centered plans and the information you gather while doing MOAIDD visits.

Continued on Page 3



Board Member Highlight

Sometimes it means just listening to someone or letting someone cry on your shoulder. One example of helping others is a family who needed a doorway enlarged. It did not cost much money, but on a fixed income it was a lot and a luxury that could not be afforded. Working as a team with others from the regional center and the area, we were able to get the door enlarged so that they could get the wheel chair through easily.

Through my job I heard about the MOAIDD volunteer program and talked to several others who decided to take the training also. On the day that I took the training there were a total of eight and four of them were people that I had asked, this made me feel good. I won't ask others to do something that I wouldn't do. I must believe in what I am doing and this was a good cause. Not only did we take that training but four of us went on to be team leaders.

I had never been to a group home or an ISL and really didn't know what they were. When Teri Wondra asked me if I would make a visit, I was scared to death but with the help of Tony Miller, it was a great visit. Tony helped to make things go smooth and relaxed. Afterwards, we filled out the paperwork and I realized that just visiting someone can make a difference. We can let people know that someone cares about the quality of life they have and that this is very important.

A lot of the time there is no one who can go and visit while being objective. Family members are concerned and love their family members, but they want someone who can see things the way they are. MOAIDD is not out to hurt anyone, but to ensure that people with disabilities aren't forgotten and have the care they need. A team may make a suggestion, but that is what it is and I've seen that the volunteers bring years of personal experience with them. They have lived this with a member of their family or they are living it themselves.

So, looking at the quality of life and maybe a way to HELP improve it, is all we look for, not to condemn or force our view on anyone. I don't feel that we go into a place looking to find fault but rather to see if maybe there is a way to do something to help improve quality of life, identify something that someone hasn't thought of or noticed a different way to do something. If we can improve or help one person then our visits are worth more than money.

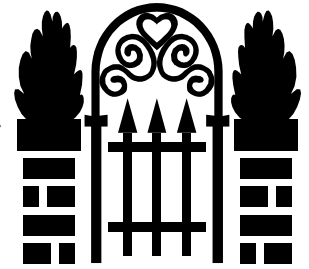
After visiting several different homes, my mind has been changed tremendously. Before I started doing visits I never would have thought of letting my granddaughter go into one of THOSE places, but now on the most part, THOSE places are loving and caring. I don't consider for the most part that they are people being paid to take care of someone, but that it is a home full of LOVE and the people who care for those with disabilities do it because they care. I have learned so much being a MOAIDD volunteer, it is important to make sure that everyone has a quality of life and not just a life that exists. Anyone can exist, but we all need more than to just exist, we need someone to care and that is what MOAIDD is, people who care and volunteer their time to see if there is a good quality to the life for those with disabilities.

HIPAA Training for MOAIDD Volunteers

Continued from page 1

HIPAA is a Federal mandate the state must comply with by April, 2003. This means that in order for MOAIDD volunteers to continue to go on visits they must attend a HIPAA training before April. Some MOAIDD volunteers have already attended HIPAA trainings due to the nature of their job. That will be acceptable if the HIPAA training you have attended was given by DMH. We would ask that you let your coordinator know if you have had DMH HIPAA training already. The trainers throughout the state are very willing to work with MOAIDD in helping us get our Volunteers trained. They will hold evening or weekend trainings for us. Your MOAIDD Coordinator should be contacting you in the near future. If for some reason you have not been contacted please, call the coordinator that is nearest you (found on the back page). For more information about HIPAA, you can visit the DMH web site at

<http://www.modmh.state.mo.us/index.htm>.



HIPAA Guarding Our Privacy

News From Central Missouri

Everything is going great here in Central Missouri. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that have committed to visits for me. My focus for the next few months will be getting to know the volunteers in my region. As you all have read, HIPAA is upon us and we all will have to attend HIPAA training. There are some dates and times on page 4, so please let me know if you will be able to attend. I will be sending out a letter shortly (you might have already received them) asking you what will be a good time for you to attend a training session. Our trainer here at CMRC has said that he would provide an evening or weekend training. I look forward to getting to know more of you and hopefully sometime in the spring we will be scheduling a volunteer get together so we can mingle with each other and have a refresher training. If you haven't heard from me or haven't received a letter please contact me, my 800 number can be found on the back page. Once again thank you all.

My focus for the next few month will be getting to know the volunteers in my region.

Chad

News from St. Louis

All of the volunteers in the St. Louis area need to attend HIPPA training. Please contact me (number on back page) with your availability, so that I can set you up with HIPPA training. We have a new regional center director in our area, Cindy Mueller and a new assistant director, Mike Busche.

There are 10 visits coming up in the St. Louis area and I am in need volunteers. If you can help with these visits, please let me know. I am looking for some volunteers that would be able to dedicate some time to MOAIDD. There will be a volunteer training for the St. Louis Regional Center in March. If you know of someone that would make a good MOAIDD volunteer, please let me know. Tequias

HIPAA Training Dates

Here are some upcoming HIPAA trainings that you can attend, please call your coordinator so they can put you on the schedule. Do to the budget constraints please schedule a training that is in the region closest to you.

Rolla Regional Center	March 19th from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Hannibal Regional Center	March 27th
Springfield Regional Center	Will be scheduled for February
Kansas City Regional Center	March 12th from 8:30 a.m. -noon.
St. Louis Regional Center	February 4th, March 4th, April 2nd
Albany Regional Center	February 6th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Poplar Bluff Regional Center	February 10 th from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.



Mark Your Calendars
For HIPAA Training

News From North Missouri

Region I and IV have continued to remain busy and are gearing up for HIPAA training. I held an informational meeting for all KCRC volunteers to update information and discuss the changes with HIPAA, as well as schedule HIPAA dates. For those unable to attend the meeting, I have sent out a survey. ARC volunteers will also be receiving HIPAA information, as well as a survey. An informational meeting will be held at a later time. If anyone has misplaced their survey, please contact me and I can send a new one.

Region I and IV have continued to remain busy and are gearing up for HIPAA training.

Thank you to all volunteers for your continued efforts and supports with visits. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!!

Shelly

News From South Missouri

Thanks to the volunteers who have been going on MOAIDD visits through all times of the day or week and/or during holidays, and in between health breaks and surgeries! The south area is nearly on target with the 2 year schedule that we follow for visits. Congratulations to all of us! Upcoming visits to schedule through February are: 2 visits in the Sikeston Regional Center area, 3 visits in the Joplin Regional Center area, 3 visits in the Springfield Regional Center area, and 4 in the Poplar Bluff Regional Center area.

Region 9 council is hosting a MOAIDD volunteer training in Sikeston on February 8, 2003. if you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a MOAIDD volunteer, please give me a phone call to register. The training will be from 9:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. Region 9 will be hosting a MOAIDD volunteer training in the Fredericktown area and in the Cape area (and further south if people are interested). The Springfield Regional Center area requested a MOAIDD volunteer training too.

You are making a difference in quality of life for people. Do you have a story you want to share from one of your visits? Send it to me and it will be in the next newsletter so successes and other experiences can be heard around our show-me state!

Teri

MOAIDD Board Members

The MOAIDD Board is comprised of many individuals that have a desire to enhance the quality of life for all Missourians. All Board Members are persons with disabilities, or family members of persons with disabilities.

Board Chairman—Gary Stevens (Rolla)

Board Vice Chairperson—Sharon Courter (St. Joseph)

Board Secretary—Mamie L. Benson
(Kennett)

Ex-officio—George Boyle (Columbia)

Karen Allan—(Jefferson City)

Evelyn Austin—(St. Louis)

Anita Carroll—(Marshall)

Tim Graybill—(Joplin)

Jean Hellwege—(Cape Girardeau)

Jo Hodges—(Blue Springs)

Lawrence Lueckenhoff—(Jefferson City)

Tony Miller—(Morrisville)

Clarice Woodard—(St. Louis)

Joe Wrinkle—(Independence)



Together we are making a difference

**MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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We're on the web

[http://www.modmh.state.mo.us/
mrdd/moaidd/index.html](http://www.modmh.state.mo.us/mrdd/moaidd/index.html)

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